

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
TAMPA DIVISION

HECTOR L. REYES MELENDEZ,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 8:20-cv-2039-AEP

KILOLO KIJAKAZI,  
Acting Commissioner of Social Security,<sup>1</sup>

Defendant.

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**ORDER**

This cause comes before the Court on Plaintiff's Petition for Attorney's Fees Pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act (Doc. 24). By the motion, Plaintiff seeks attorney's fees in the amount of \$3,247.80 pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d). On May 20, 2021, this Court entered an Order granting the Commissioner's motion for remand and reversing and remanding the case to the Commissioner for further administrative proceedings (Doc. 22). Thereafter, the Clerk entered judgment in favor of Plaintiff (Doc. 23). As the prevailing party, Plaintiff now requests an award of attorney's fees. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A); *cf. Shalala v. Schaefer*, 509 U.S. 292, 300-02 (1993)

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<sup>1</sup> Kilolo Kijakazi is now the Commissioner of Social Security. Pursuant to Rule 25(d) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Acting Commissioner Kilolo Kijakazi should be substituted for Commissioner Andrew M. Saul as the defendant in this matter. No further action needs to be taken to continue this matter by reason of the last sentence of section 205(g) of the Social Security Act. 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

(concluding that a party who wins a sentence-four remand order under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) is a prevailing party).

The Commissioner does not oppose the requested relief. After issuance of an order awarding EAJA fees, however, the United States Department of the Treasury will determine whether Plaintiff owes a debt to the government. If Plaintiff has no discernable federal debt, the government will accept Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees and pay the fees directly to Plaintiff's counsel. For the reasons set out in Plaintiff's motion, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED:

1. Plaintiff's Unopposed Amended Petition for EAJA Fees (Doc. 24) is GRANTED.

2. Plaintiff is awarded fees in the amount of \$3,247.80. Unless the Department of Treasury determines that Plaintiff owes a federal debt, the government must pay the fees to Plaintiff's counsel in accordance with Plaintiff's assignment of fees (Doc. 24, Ex. A).

DONE AND ORDERED in Tampa, Florida, on this 19th day of August, 2021.

  
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ANTHONY E. PORCELLI  
United States Magistrate Judge

cc: Counsel of Record